

**THE CLASSIC POLITICAL MANEUVER WHEN A CORRUPT GOVERNMENT WANTS TO CONCEAL ITS TRUE INTENTIONS. IS TO ACCUSE SOMEONE ELSE OF THE VERY WRONGDOING IT IS COMMITTING. SO BIDEN'S SOCIALISTS BLAME TRUMP AND SUPPORTERS AS THE REAL SOCILIST-COMMUNISTS, NOT US, NOT ME. I AM NOT SOCIALIST SAYS BIDEN  
THE CHINESE COMMUNIST TAKEOVER OF AMERICA IS WELL UNDERWAY**



"FEMINISTS ARE USEFUL IDIOTS WHO ARE LITERALLY DESTROYING THE WORLD" post  
by a MGTOW

**“Men have sacrificed and crippled themselves physically and emotionally to feed, house, and protect women and children. None of their pain or achievement is registered in feminist rhetoric, which portrays men as oppressive and callous exploiters.”**

**— Camille Paglia**

**“[T]he useful idiots, the leftists who are idealistically believing in the beauty of the Soviet socialist or Communist or whatever system, when they get disillusioned, they become the worst enemies. That’s why my KGB instructors specifically made the point: never bother with leftists. Forget about these political prostitutes. Aim higher. [...] They serve a purpose only at the stage of destabilization of a nation. For example, your leftists in the United States: all these professors and all these beautiful civil rights defenders. They are instrumental in the process of the subversion only to destabilize a nation. When their job is completed, they are not needed any more. They know too much. Some of them, when they get disillusioned, when they see that Marxist-Leninists come to power—obviously they get offended—they think that they will come to power. That will never happen, of course. They will be lined up against the wall and shot.”**

**— Yuri Bezmenov**

**“People are not embracing collectivism because they have accepted bad economics. They are accepting bad economics because they have embraced collectivism.”**

**— Ayn Rand**

“The only population Communism has ever successfully fed is the shark population swimming the Florida Straits.”

— A.E. Samaan

<http://archive.li/4m5lt>

The world is on fire, and feminists are the useful idiots that set it on fire. They think they're empowering women when in fact all they've done is destabilize society.

They've taken women away from jobs that play to their natural strengths and make them happy, such as child-rearing and homemaking, and put them into corporate jobs as warm bodies to be consumed generating quarterly profits for an ungrateful CEO. And, let's not forget generating tax revenue for human farmers in the government.

In effect, they've reduced the measure of female value to labor only, just like men. They've stripped women of everything that makes being a woman great, and encouraged women to give their sexuality away riding the cock carousel instead of capitalizing on it while it's in bloom during the short, short spring and summer seasons of a woman's life.

Meantime, their potential legacy, a life spent being a mother to lovely children and in a mutually beneficial relationship with a loving husband withers and dies in the womb as the modern woman's eggs dry up and her ass starts to sag and it grows harder and harder to hide defects with makeup. By the time she gets around to thinking about having a child, the incessant tick-tock of her biological clock growing as deafening Poe's The Tell-Tale Heart, she's 35 and no man wants to take on all the baggage she's accumulated for her waning fertility and looks. The cost is high and the benefit is low. No matter how much shaming, men walk away from crappy deals like this one. And, we are right to do so.

Once a woman's SMV is gone, she literally offers nothing but baggage to a man. The energy spent doing what women have done since time immemorial is instead spent in endless corporate ladder climbing to power a lifestyle of materialism that is destroying both the family and the environment. Under the old arrangement, for the 10 best, most fertile years of a woman's life a man offered his entire life as he was loyal to her even after her fall from grace. Feminism put an end to all that. Feminism expects men to accept all of her baggage with none of the reward. Sorry, it doesn't work that way.

There were warnings about the dire straits feminism and other Marxist ideologies have put the West in, and finally there are politically incorrect solutions arising to combat the cancer of this totalitarian ideology. KGB

An ex-KGB agent Yuri Bezmenov tried to warn America where it was headed 30 years ago

### Unheeded Warnings

30 years ago, after first wave feminism had succeeded but the crater hadn't yet bottomed out, KGB agent Yuri Bezmenov knew what was being done to American women and

American youth as the Long March through the institutions started with feminism and proceeded to uproot and overturn other pillars holding up the society, culminating with today's attacks upon the nation itself by Black Lives Matter, Antifa and spoiled football players. In an epic interview, Bezmenov tried to warn the West about how leftists were infiltrating the U.S. with Marxist ideology, including feminism: It's a great brainwashing process which goes very slow and is divided into four basic stages. The first one being "demoralization". It takes from 15 to 20 years to demoralize a nation. Why that many years? Because this is the minimum number of years required to educate one generation of students in the country of your enemy exposed to the ideology of the enemy. In other words, Marxism-Leninism ideology is being pumped into the soft heads of at least three generations of American students without being challenged or counterbalanced by the basic values of Americanism; American patriotism... The supreme irony of the U.S. fighting a Cold War while adopting socialist policies like feminism at home is lost on many. **The classic political maneuver when a corrupt government wants to conceal its true intentions. Is To Accuse someone else of the very wrongdoing you're committing.** In this case, claim to fight against USSR Communism while adopting Communism bit by bit and piece by piece at home.

In 1984, when Bezmenov gave the interview the process hadn't become quite as advanced as it has today. That year, Ronald Reagan was elected in one of the largest landslides in history carrying 49 out of 50 states defeating socialist Jimmy Carter.. But, even in those days when conservatism and libertarianism seemed to be on the rise, Bezmenov eerily predicted with great accuracy the bizarre world we are living in – one in which **Pravda-like disinformation from the media rules, women are encouraged to act like men, men are encouraged to act like eunuchs, and nobody knows which bathroom to use. All this, just 30 years after his prophetic warnings were not heeded.**

The result you can see...the people who graduated in the 60's, dropouts or half-baked intellectuals, are now occupying the positions of power in the government, civil service, business, mass media, and educational systems. You are stuck with them. You can't get through to them.

They are contaminated. They are programmed to think and react to certain stimuli in a certain pattern [alluding to Pavlov]. You cannot change their mind even if you expose them to authentic information. Even if you prove that white is white and black is black, you still can not change the basic perception and the logic of behavior.

The "dropouts" and "half-baked intellectuals" he speaks of came to power with the Clinton administration less than a decade later. Today, we are frighteningly close to seeing the ultimate fate of his prophecy and their Great March through the institutions realized in the West. In other words [for] these people **the process of demoralization is complete and irreversible.** To rid society of these people you need another 15 or 20 years to educate a new generation of patriotically minded and common sense people who would be acting in favor and in the interests of United States society.

**The pendulum is beginning to swing back the other way as the Internet has exposed feminism and many other myths promulgated by the American government and corporate media as bald-faced liars, but it's happening too slowly** and without enough vigor. We had better pray to God enough men have awakened before it's too late and we're

all micro-chipped drones parroting narratives we know to be lies but are too afraid to speak out about. It will take at least a generation begin to make an impact in the Culture War and against the insanity of leftist policies of the past 50 years.

Milo deconstructs the programming ex-KGB agent Bezmenov warned us about, as he says women will be happier and society better served by women coming back to the home.

Milo Yiannopoulos, fearless gay conservative and Breitbart columnist, a man the Marxist media doesn't know what to do with, knows the cure to what ails feminists. He suggests the cure for bitter feminists, cat ladies, and the epidemic of female unhappiness is for society to do two things nobody wants to hear. Let's start with the device that forced women out of the home they so lovingly kept, wrenched their children from their arms and doomed them to perform unsatisfying tasks in the workforce in order to respond to new social norms: the washing machine. This infernal contraption was celebrated as a means to making a woman's life much easier, and is now hailed as one of the milestones of women's liberation. Almost no invention or political decision in history affected gender relations like the washing machine, because it effectively freed up half the human species to enter the workforce. Indeed, idle hands are the devil's workshop. Women need to be working in the home again. Taking the washing machine away is hyperbole, of course, but working for a family rather than corporate profits is surely a nobler venture. Once women are happily occupied with being homemakers, they also need to start having children again or the Caucasian population literally will continue dying off. Talk of procreation leads me onto the next invention that seeks to actively destroy the lives of women: the contraceptive pill. The Pill is used to lower a woman's estrogen levels and reduce the likelihood of her becoming pregnant. This was touted by feminists as a revolutionary form of contraception: finally, women were liberated to explore the world sexually with no repercussion! Unfortunately, this liberation only freed women to displace men from the labor force and for the West to commit demographic suicide as women mistakenly thought they were so advanced it didn't have to have dirty little babies anymore. This move also led to the rise and dominance of manginas and other geldings in the Office Space hell most people now consider as normal as cattle consider their pens. Healthy, fertile women seek out men who are genetically different to them. Women on the Pill do the opposite, seeking out men who are closer to their own tribe. This perhaps is an explanation for the rise of feminized males, so desperate to get laid that they mimic the behavior and mannerisms of women. Milo echoes the wisdom we in the manosphere have been prescribing as the cure to the cultural cancer of the West for some time. We know for sure what's causing the epidemic of female unhappiness, but could it — just perhaps — have something to do with a woman's changing role in society, the expectations placed on her to "have it all" and the effects of work, the Pill and being encouraged to think and act like men? Women acting like men, and women living lives of materialism and consumerism rather than dedicating themselves to children and a husband who will love them back are two combined forces that are literally destroying the world. The marginalization of men by feminism and the breakdown of the family is destroying the world socially, it is destroying the foundations of civilization as anthropologist J.D. Unwin knew it would, and the fact women power 80% of the consumerism waste machine with their newfound "liberation" is destroying the world environmentally. Women have been shamed from being happy housewives and have joined men in the less than happy career world. It was the blunder of all time. The role of the housewife has been thoroughly and ritually humiliated by successive waves of feminism — as if raising well-adjusted children, keeping a beautiful home and marrying a loving

husband is worthy of derision and ridicule. In fact, it's one of the most important things a woman can do with her life and may be one of the only things women can actually do better than men. It's time feminism was exposed as the totalitarian ideology it is, meant to take advantage of women for corporate gain and government largess at the expense of the family and the social order. It's yet another way American culture has shamelessly sold itself out for profit rather than well-being. This exposure of the ills brought on by feminism needs to happen not just in the manosphere but in the mass mind, and feminism left on the ash heap of history as one of the worst ideas ever conceived by the human mind.

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A bombshell for feminists just dropped. Researchers have found housewives are far happier than Strong, Independent Women™ with educations and careers that have turned them into debt slaves, corporate cogs and taxpaying serfs. Rather than stay at home as women have through the ages, “empowered” women now routinely pay nannies to raise their own children, if they have them at all. As today's women fume and fuss, now suffering through a nearly 50 hour average work week just like men, women who work at home are smiling ear to ear as they help create optimally adjusted young men and women. Housewives, it seems, are more than happy to provide their families with nutritious meals and perform other light housework on their own time rather than jumping through hoops on the demanding schedule of a soulless bean counter.

Rather than Western society trying to reinvent the wheel with everything it touches, this British study is a great piece of evidence showing the truth of the maxim if it ain't broke, don't fix it. It turns out women didn't need “fixing” by feminism so they could become more like men. And, as discussed in a previous TNMM report, the Have It All™ career girl is only proving Freud's penis envy theory correct.

The fact women who stay at home are happier than any other profession flies in the face of 50 years of feminist propaganda that tells women the Have It All™ lifestyle is the one they should be chasing. Of course, feminists love pushing men out of careers in air-conditioned offices while cleverly avoiding backbreaking work in the almost totally male timber, mining, and garbage collection industries. Equality doesn't apply if there is manual labor involved. Notice the hypocrisy?

The feminist idea is that being a housewife is not a job, or is somehow oppressive is actually discriminatory to women who see traditional gender roles as holding precedence over competing with and displacing men from the workplace. Laura Perrins, who runs the Conservative Woman web site points out the biases of feminists and the politicians who do the bidding of their lobbyists.

That this survey confirms is how satisfying the vocation of raising children at home, and all the work that it entails, is. Mothers who do this know what a responsible job raising children is. It is a shame our government does not share this view.

So, why are Western governments trying to eliminate sex differences by pushing women out of the home and into the workforce when a full 6 out of 7 women report being fulfilled

as housewives? The Liverpool Victoria survey, conducted in the heart of the Anglosphere, England, found a level of unhappiness among housewives that is half that of civil servants, saleswomen, or PR flacks. Here is how the top five happiest careers break down. Importantly, the happiest professions are the ones historically filled by female employees:

Housewives – 87.2% happy Hospitality and events management – 86.3% happy Creative arts and design – 84.4% happy Charity work – 83.9% happy Leisure, sport and tourism – 83.7% happy

The Daily Mail (UK) also dropped another bombshell as it reported career girls are usually much less happy than women in traditionally female fields, and a large number of career girls would like to give up life on the corporate plantation to go back to being stay at home wives and moms. These findings go against 50 years of feminist propaganda:

The least satisfied were working in marketing, advertising and public relations, with a happiness rating of 53.8%. Government surveys have also shown that more than a third of mothers who go out to work would like to give up their jobs and stay at home with their children. But women who stay at home to bring up families are under heavy pressure from the Government to find jobs and send their children into childcare.

As women made the transition out of the home and into the workforce, it created twice the number of taxpayers adding to bureaucratic largesse, and cut labor costs in half as men were displaced from their traditional roles, which could explain why the corporate-government complex pressures women to find Joe jobs rather than doing work that makes them happy. Corporations and the government have vested interests in seeing women do mundane work rather than working towards maintaining an intact family and being a loving, and loved mother. Woman who is doing laundry in her home

Housewives spend approximately 1 1/2 hours a day doing laundry, but they're happier than YouGoGrrl careerist shrieks

Important Work The survey details the importance and quantity of work performed by women who choose to be homemakers.

Here's how the average day for the housewife breaks down, showing the job is far from easy: Childcare: 2 hours, 7 minutes Cleaning: 1 hour, 47 minutes Shopping: 1 hour, 20 minutes Gardening: 1 hour, 2 minutes Cooking: 1 hour, 44 minutes Laundry: 1 hour, 28 minutes Teaching children: 1 hour, 1 minute Driving: 56 minutes Other: 1 hour, 46 minutes

Highlighting the type of work housewives do underscores the value and the importance of the traditional woman in helping hold the family together. She is irreplaceable. While misandrist feminists scoff at this ideal, for many women they feel it is the highest calling career wise.

Personally, as a man there's nothing sexier than a housewife who loves her husband and family. This is the kind of women I would do anything for, not the hateful, man-hating, demanding feminists of today. And, ironically feminism actually weakened women,

contrary to its stated purpose. This aspect of feminism is discussed in a previous TNMM article:

In short, feminism is a Trojan Horse for the real goal of Cultural Marxism. It operates under the rules of Machiavellian politics, which use duplicity and cunning to hide the true objectives those in power. Women thought they were “progressing” but in reality they were regressing. They now dedicate their lives to an unloving career and employer rather than a loving husband and children.

As traditionalism is becoming the new counterculture in the early 21st century, a blog called The Glamorous Housewife has sprung up and details the story of one woman who writes articles like Why I Love Being a Homemaker. Feminists would have a myocardial infarction if they stumbled onto that site, especially since it is written by and for women. Some of the top reasons women who contribute to The Glamorous Housewife have decided that being a homemaker is an important role in society include, in their own words:

I set my own schedule and work for the people I love most in the world.

I get to sleep with the boss.

Being able to take care of my husband in an ideal fashion, dinner when he walks in the door, etc. Ensuring my daughter is okay as she transitions from teenager to adult. Being there whenever they need me always. Being blessed to be with or be concentrating on family. Everything about being a modern homemaker is amazing, been my dream since I was little and it finally came true.

I like the flexibility and the lack of stress, too. Not that things aren’t stressful with little kids, but it’s not the kind of stress I experienced when I worked outside my home. Importantly, children from traditional nuclear families in which the mother takes care of the kids and men bring home the bacon also fare better statistically than any other type of familial arrangement. The documentary Demographic Winter demonstrates how pulling women out of the home and putting them into the workforce has not only made them less happy, but it has created a dying population in America along with a rising rate of child delinquency. Beyond the better citizens and contributors to society that housewives groom and the happier lives they enjoy, marrying a career woman is fraught with difficulties. Even Penelope Trunk, who helps women manage their careers admits:

The conclusion, that marriages and families work better with a full-time housewife, is hard to swallow but hard to deny.

Not only does marriage and family work better when wives and mothers stay at home than when women marry a corporation, all parties involved are happier. If it was such terrible oppression as feminists claim, why would women love the work so much?

And the author

So, who the hell is this self-styled newscaster turned world roaming nomad? Why is he driving trucks, writing books, and exploring the world? Why does he rage against the machine? What’s his story?

In short, I'm the man modern America loves to hate. The straight, white male from a Christian background. (Although I come from a Christian background, I consider myself non-religious.) I'm the "up by the bootstraps" guy who pulled himself out of poverty and became the first in his family to get a college degree. Far from having "white privilege" I have had adversity my entire life. By sheer grit and determination, and far too many sacrifices I made it from Small Town USA to the media ivory tower. I landed a part-time job in television at age 22. By age 30, I had pushed myself hard enough to advance to doing the news in a medium-sized city after starting from less than nothing.

However, after over a decade working on-air in the television news business, I realized I was playing for the wrong side and turned into a dissident of the evil narratives being pushed by what so many of us now refer to as fake news. In my last couple of years in the belly of the beast of mainstream media, I watched everything evaporate I had been promised for conforming to the demands of the System. I grew increasingly desperate to do something to get out of the web of lies spun by the mythmakers in society. This culminated in my resignation from fake news. WW

I don't sell drugs, but I do sell unvarnished truth You could call it a Walter White moment, but instead of turning to selling drugs I turned to selling the unvarnished truth about women and the world while creating a new lifestyle and new philosophy based on the Red Pill. This blog, while certainly a social commentary on the nightmares that are feminism and leftism is also about my story. A story of escaping the clutches of debt slavery, escaping the corporate plantation, abandoning a career I once aspired to, and designing a new life for not only myself but beating a path for other free-minded men to follow. The goal? 50% work and 50% pleasure. 6 months a year in the matrix and 6 months a year doing whatever the fuck I want. Avoiding the traps and manipulations of predatory women. So far, it's been a raging success. Within the pages of this blog is a story of putting my suit and tie in the closet and putting on my work gloves, driving a semi tractor-trailer part-time. (And coming soon, workamping 6 months a year.) I will do whatever it takes to avoid falling back under the control of a system designed to exploit me.

I am one of many who aspire to be John Galt, the man described as: A philosopher and inventor; a man who believes in the power and glory of the human mind, and the right of the individual to use their mind solely for themselves. I have absolutely no desire to come back to the socially engineered police state America is turning to except to cash in on its rotting carcass.

Like John Galt, I abhor collectivism, the philosophy now darkening the West under the guise of globalism. One of my goals is enjoying the world as it is, as it was, a diverse, wonderful place before we are all assimilated into the NWO corporate collective and become the very humans Orwell warned about:

If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face—for ever.

When I'm not writing for The New Modern Man I enjoy reading, research into myriad topics, dancing, fucking pretty women, drinking, music of all different types, traveling to exotic destinations, motorcycles, hot rods, and rare recreational drug use in places where it's legal. In short, as a minimalist I chase experiences not possessions.

I am bilingual having spent a lot of time in Latin America trying to get away from the growing cultural insanity and institutional tyranny of Anglo America. I have not had a television since leaving The Matrix and do not plan on having one ever again. Instead of living life vicariously through fictional characters, I prefer living my own interesting adventures in reality. More recently, I've moved to curb feeding the social media panopticon with my personal data by deleting my personal social media accounts.

I created The New Modern Man in January 2016 as a vehicle to fight back against the propaganda I grew to hate, and to educate, inspire, and entertain other Red Pill men to live their best lives. The manosphere saved my life. Now, I'd like to return the favor by saving other men's lives. You can email me by visiting the contact form.

## **Russian Draftees Refused to Fight for Russia. The Law Did Not Treat Them Kindly.**

Neil MacFarquhar

10–12 minutes

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Note to americans who think socialist rule is so great. US will have another draft and women are included or else in the next war. So goes reality of the romantic equality of socialist, communist collectivism.

An officer in the Federal Guard Service, which is responsible for protecting Russian President Vladimir Putin, decided last fall to avoid fighting in Ukraine by sneaking across the southern border into Kazakhstan.

The officer, Maj. Mikhail Zhilin, disguised himself as a mushroom picker, wearing camouflage and carrying a couple of small bottles of cognac so that he could douse himself and then act drunk and disoriented if he encountered the Russian border patrol.

In the dark, the lean, fit major navigated across the forested frontier without incident, but he was arrested on the other side.

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“Freedom is not given to people that easily,” he told his wife, Ekaterina Zhilina, months later, after Kazakhstan rejected his bid for political asylum and handed him back to Russia to face trial for desertion.

“He had these romantic notions when he first began his military-academic studies,” Zhilina said in a recent interview, describing perceptions drawn from Russian literature about the honor and pride inherent in defending your homeland. “But everything soured when the war started.”

Zhilin is among the hundreds of Russian men who faced criminal charges for becoming war refuseniks since Moscow's full-scale invasion of Ukraine last year. Some dodge the draft, while those already serving desert or refuse orders to redeploy on the bloody, chaotic battlefields of Ukraine.

In 2022, 1,121 people were convicted of evading mandatory military conscription, according to statistics from Russia's Supreme Court, compared with an average of around 600 in more recent years. Before the war, a vast majority were fined, not imprisoned. Russia recently passed a measure making it much harder to avoid a draft summons.

In addition, criminal cases have been initiated against more than 1,000 soldiers, mostly for abandoning their units, according to a broad court survey by Mediazona, an independent Russian news outlet. Anticipating the problem in September, when several hundred thousand civilians were mobilized, Russia toughened the penalties for being AWOL.

The maximum sentence was doubled to 10 years for what is euphemistically called "Leaving for Sochi." (SOCH is the Russian acronym for AWOL, but the expression is a play on the name of Sochi, a Black Sea getaway for the country's elite and site of the 2014 Winter Olympics.) Refusing an order to participate in combat carries a sentence of three to 10 years.

That has not stopped Russian men from going to unusual lengths to avoid fighting. One officer said he took a bullet in the leg as part of a pact among several soldiers to shoot one another and then claim that they were wounded in a firefight. Hailed as a hero for various battlefield events, it took him six months to recover, at which point he decided to flee.

The Kremlin has shrouded in secrecy an increasing amount of information about the military, including new statistics about crimes involving military service, so the numbers are undoubtedly higher than what is available. But the number of AWOL cases accelerated after the general mobilization, according to Mediazona. Many criminal cases involve soldiers who refused orders to enter battle, leading to confrontations with their commanders, according to several lawyers who defend soldiers.

One lawyer, Dmitri Kovalenko, was retained by the families of more than 10 soldiers who said they were thrown into pits, called "zindans," near the front line after refusing to fight. "People realize that they are not ready — that their commanders are not ready, that they have to go in blind, not knowing where or why," he said.

Intimidation is the first response of commanders, he said, so treatment can be harsh. Two soldiers whom he defended were locked into a container last summer without food or water, he said. At one point, about 300 conscripts who refused to fight last year were held in a basement in eastern Ukraine, where they were threatened, called "pigs," not fed and not allowed to go to the toilet or to bathe, according to Astra, an independent news outlet, and other Russian news media organizations, quoting relatives. The Wagner mercenary group has threatened to execute its refuseniks, and there have been scattered reports of them being shot.

In theory, Russian law allows for conscientious objectors performing alternative service, but it is rarely granted. Sometimes those charged with refusing to fight are given suspended sentences, which means they can be redeployed.

The officer who was shot in the leg by his colleague had pursued a military career since he was 9 and a cadet, he said, but he wanted it to be over the minute he was ordered into Ukraine. He ended up staying about three months, appalled by the very idea of the war as well as by the terrible state of the Russian military.

Soldiers were not provided basic items like underwear, he said, and few knew how to navigate and got themselves killed.

“There are no saints on either side,” said the officer, who spoke on the condition that he not be named, nor his location published, out of concern that Russia might seek his extradition. “The locals were actively partisan. I shot back. I didn’t want to die.”

After he recovered, and the military ordered him back to Ukraine, he decided to run.

“I’m ready to die for Russia, but I don’t want to fight, to risk my life for the criminals who sit in the government,” said the officer, who is now on a wanted list in Russia.

Another Russian, a member of the Sakha ethnic group concentrated in the Siberian region of Yakutia, also deserted. Five days among the drunken, newly mobilized soldiers at an army camp convinced him to leave.

The man, who also insisted on anonymity, was fired from his construction job so that he could go fight. Packed onto an airplane, the draftees discovered their destination for training by looking at their phones when they landed. Most soldiers drank constantly, he said in an interview. One night in another barracks, he said, a soldier stabbed another to death.

The conscript said that the racist attitude of his Russian officers when he did his military service a decade earlier had soured him on the military — they called him “reindeer herder” because of his ethnic Siberian background. He said he was subjected to similar comments as soon as he mobilized. Things deteriorated further after he tried to bribe his lieutenant to leave. The officer mocked him openly as a coward.

His mother flew in to extract him, directing a taxi to a hole in the base’s fence. After he fled the country and was charged with desertion, he faced fierce criticism from home, he said, with authorities saying that he had disgraced the Sakha people. Even a close friend threatened to beat him up.

Some Russian courts still publicize military cases to create a chilling deterrent to potential deserters. In the spring, for example, a court announced that a sailor who had gone AWOL twice had been sentenced to nine years in a prison colony.

The Krasnoyarsk Garrison Military Court released a photograph and a statement in December showing dozens of soldiers crowding a courtroom to watch an AWOL case. The sentence was pronounced before that audience “for preventive purposes,” the statement said.

In the Belgorod region near the Ukrainian border, two soldiers were detained on a parade ground in November and charged with refusing to obey a deployment order. They were called out of the ranks, handcuffed and thrown into a paddy wagon in front of their unit, all shown on a video posted on the Telegram messaging app. Earlier this month, both were sentenced to three years in prison, according to Russian news media reports.

Well before the war, Zhilin, 36, the soldier who left for Kazakhstan, had become disenchanted with the very administration he was assigned to protect. An engineer, he worked in the Siberian city of Novosibirsk for the presidential security service, supervising the Kremlin's communications lines with the eastern parts of Russia.

The assassination of Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov in 2015 and the poisoning of Alexei Navalny in 2020 had drawn his attention, his wife said. He started following political news more closely.

He weighed quitting, but decided he could endure the two years until he received a pension. Then came the war. “It is one thing to suppress human rights,” his wife quoted him as saying, “it is quite another to kill people.”

In the fall, before the mobilization, he had visited the cemetery where his mother is buried. He found 30 new graves of riot police officers who had fought in the war. The ribbon on one small wreath said just “Daddy.”

Two colleagues had already died in Ukraine, and he wondered if his son, 11, and daughter, 8, might one day make a similar wreath. When the mobilization was announced, he quickly decided to leave the country.

Since his security clearance gave him access to state secrets, leaving was prohibited. He decided to cross on foot while his family drove into Kazakhstan legally.

But the plan went awry. Lacking a cell signal, he could not find their car. He was arrested after stumbling upon a Kazakh border officer. He requested political asylum, but in December, he was deported.

In March, he was sentenced to 6 1/2 years in a penal colony and stripped of his rank.

Right after he was deported, his wife, fearing that she and the children would also be sent back, sought and received political asylum in France.

So far, her husband has not been mistreated, she said. The couple, although bitter toward Kazakh authorities, consider the sentence a far better alternative than dying in Ukraine.

“Mikhail wrote me that he feels morally freer than he was,” she said, adding that he told her, “I guess you have to pay a certain price for the freedom to think and to say what you want.”

## Six types of 'useful idiot'

James Bloodworth

12-15 minutes

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The appalling scenes emerging from Venezuela – where the citizens of the most oil-rich country in the world have been reduced to scavenging in rubbish bins for food – should act as a cautionary tale to

those inclined to project utopian aspirations onto societies they do not understand.

Just a handful of years ago the Venezuelan government was praised uncritically by much of the Western left. Today it is an embarrassment – every emaciated Venezuelan a testament to the credulity of those who once lauded Hugo Chavez as the leader of a “progressive, populist government that says no to neo-liberalism”.<sup>1</sup>

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The silence that has descended upon these former revolutionary tourists has been described appositely by [Jack Staples-Butler](#) as the “great forgetting”.

It is more than mere stupidity that explains why citizens of relatively open societies are willing to offer up glowing appraisals of brutal political systems

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The phrase ‘useful idiot’ has long been in circulation to describe naive revolutionary tourists and other ignorant dupes of foreign dictatorships. [The term](#) is commonly attributed to Lenin, though there is little evidence he ever actually used it. Instead the expression seems to have originated in the mid-twentieth century to describe social democrats who entered into popular fronts and electoral pacts with Stalinist communist parties.

Why, though, do people become full blown ‘useful idiots’ in the first place? Western admirers of despotic governments are invariably useful to said governments, hence the name. But it is more than mere stupidity that explains why citizens of relatively open societies are willing to offer up glowing appraisals of brutal political systems. The following is a rough sketch of some of the forms that this ‘useful idiocy’ frequently takes.

### **The Seeker**

A commonly heard phrase – that a particular politician or movement has provided a person with ‘something to believe in’ – embodies our post-religious longing for a cause or higher purpose. Indeed, it’s not easy to shake off the framework of system-based thinking even in an avowedly secular age.

In *The God That Failed* the ex-communist Arthur Koestler wrote of the inner peace and serenity which settled on the mind of the communist when he or she embraced the dialectic: “The whole universe falls into pattern like the stray pieces of a jigsaw puzzle assembled by magic at one stroke”. An embrace of ideology ensures that the answer to every question is available at a stroke, with the newly acquired world view akin to a flashlight in a darkened room.

The search for meaning in an unpredictable world is probably inevitable up to a point. What is contemptible is the relegation of other human beings to pawns in the supposed historical process. The latter results in people uttering glib phrases about “omelettes not being possible without broken eggs” when bouts of mass killing threaten to undermine a favoured cause. Or ignoring inconvenient stories in countries such as Venezuela. Indeed, the rise and fall Venezuela-mania in certain circles of the Left stands as a tragic rejoinder to those who are inclined to unthinkingly seek out worthy causes overseas.

### **The Utopian**

If history has a purpose, then any crime may be explained away as a necessary evil on the march to utopia. Moreover, teleological thinking of this kind can endow the believer with what Dostoevsky called the “*right to dishonour*”: the granting of permission to oneself to behave badly in the name of some higher ideal.

The wars unleashed during the twentieth century to prevent the Vietnamese and others from ‘going communist’ – to the point where it “became necessary to destroy *the* town to *save it*” as one United States army major famously put it – reflect this attitude. As did the Conservative MP Andrew Rosindell’s [declaration](#) in 2012 of his “huge admiration” for Augusto Pinochet on the basis that the Chilean dictator “ousted a communist regime”. Never mind that General Pinochet subsequently tortured and murdered thousands of his own people. Yet Rosindell’s logic is unimpeachable if one accepts the legitimacy of *injustice* in the present in the service of *justice* in the distant future.

Utopian thinking – whether it venerates the market or the command economy – is always liable to turn apocalyptic. During the Cuban missile crisis the Argentinian revolutionary Che Guevara called on the Soviet Union to launch a first nuclear strike against the United States in order to “save the blood of more people in the future”. [4. Che Guevara: A Revolutionary Life, Jon Lee Anderson]

### **The Power Worshipper**

A government which grants foreign journalists privileged access to territory that is off limits to more critical voices does so because it believes they will return to their own countries and make the case for the regime in question. This tends to work because any journalist or politician singled out for such an invitation is typically vain enough to believe that they have been chosen for their fearless scepticism rather than for their credulity.

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A notorious example from the twentieth century is that of George Bernard Shaw, a prominent British author and playwright. Shaw was feted by the communist authorities on his journeyings around Russia and granted a two-hour long private audience with Joseph Stalin. In October 1931 Shaw – who made a great deal of his ‘scepticism’ so far as it concerned the actions of his own government – [appeared on the BBC](#) to talk of the Soviet Union’s “atmosphere of such hope and security for the poorest as has never before been seen in a civilised country on earth”.

While Shaw was singing the praises of Stalinism the Soviet Union was gripped by a terrible – and entirely avoidable – famine. Yet the spell cast by Stalin’s flattery overpowered any potential concern on Shaw’s part for the starving peasantry.

In more recent times fringe journalists such as Vanessa Beeley have travelled to Syria only to return to Britain toeing the regime line that President Bashar al Assad is engaged in a manichean struggle against the terrorists of the Islamic State. In return for such obsequies, those like Beeley, the daughter of the late British diplomat Sir Harold Beeley, have received access to parts of Syria such as Aleppo usually denied to independent journalists.<sup>2</sup>

In normal circumstances Beeley would be considered a crank. She [believes](#) that the deadly attack on Charlie Hebdo magazine in 2015 was a false flag operation and that Al Qaeda was not responsible for 9/11. But Beeley is useful to the Russians and their client state in Syria, and appears regularly on English language Russian State media.

The willingness of Beeley – as well as other activist-cum-journalists including [Neil Clarke](#) and [John Pilger](#) – to champion the Kremlin line has the happy side effect (for those in question at least) of opening up large media platforms denied to them by the mainstream, spreading disinformation about Russia's blood-soaked foreign policy.

### **The Relativist**

The Relativist is a person who expects other people to adhere to rules which they have little intention of abiding by themselves, or who sees no hypocrisy in viewing other people (typically foreigners) as undeserving of the rights one takes for granted for oneself.

One example is the late Colombian novelist Gabriel García Márquez. A long-time admirer and friend of the Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, García Márquez once [told \*The New York Times\*](#) that although he supported the Cuban revolution he could never live under the communist system himself:

“I would miss too many things. I couldn't live with the lack of information. I am a voracious reader of newspapers and magazines from around the world.”

Which begs the question: did the author of *One Hundred Years of Solitude* ever wonder if there were Cubans who felt the same way? Koestler likened such people to peeping toms, peering through a hole in the wall at 'history' while not having to experience it themselves.

There are many such people around today. They are bleeding heart moralists when it comes to the actions of the United States but cool rationalists – forever unearthing some mitigating 'context' – when informed about the crimes of America's enemies.

This attitude came to the fore particularly forcefully after the attacks of 9/11. Who can forget the editorial in the [New Statesman](#) of 17 September 2001, written by the then editor Peter Wilby, which included the following passage:

“American bond traders [killed in the World Trade Center], you may say, are as innocent and undeserving of terror as Vietnamese and Iraqi peasants. Well, yes and no... They preferred George Bush to Al Gore and Ralph Nader.”

### **The Stability-Fetishist**

Both left-wing 'anti-imperialism' and traditional realism can be filed under this category. Each represents a different face of an attitude which views people as mere chess pieces in the great game of international statecraft.

For many left-wing anti-imperialists a murderous regime such as that of Bashar al Assad in Syria ought to be defended on the basis of its hostility to the United States. The latter being the most powerful capitalist – and by extension imperialist – country in the world, this logic runs that any state or movement which points an AK47 in its direction cannot be altogether bad.

A rush to exculpate the Assad regime each time it uses chemical weapons against civilians has thus become a hallmark of the anti-imperialist left,<sup>3</sup> with pundits seeking to cast doubt on any official narrative which draws attention to the brutality of an anti-Western power. Something similar occurred in the aftermath of the Skripal poisoning in Salisbury, with activists of the far-right and far-left quickly out the blocks to cast doubt on the official narrative that the Russian state was responsible.<sup>4</sup>

The ‘realist’ on the other hand is likely to defend the likes of President Assad as a stable bulwark against the ‘chaos’ which could be unleashed along with the Syrian people’s desire for democracy. Left-wing anti-imperialism – with its all-encompassing hostility to ‘regime change’ – is often indistinguishable from this worldly-wise realism.

### **The Nostalgist**

The appeal of Russia to many in the West is harder to comprehend today than it was during the Soviet era. For while those like Sidney and Beatrice Webb who wrote paeans in the thirties to the ‘New Civilisation’ in Moscow were credulous dupes who ought to have known better, there was at least a degree of progress hanging over the Soviet Union.

Today Russia is an economically stagnant backwater characterised by palm-greasing at home and violent chauvinism abroad. But to some, Russia’s attraction lies in the image of a pure and untainted ‘Russian Bear’ holding out against the decadent and feeble west.

As such, prominent figures from the contemporary ‘alt-right’ can be frequently heard paying tribute to Vladimir Putin who is said to embody traditional masculine virtues; virtues which have been undermined in the West by feminism and homosexuality. “I really believe that Russia is the leader of the free world right now,” the prominent American neo-Nazi Matthew Heimbach told [Business Insider](#) in 2016.

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While this list is by no means exhaustive, most bouts of useful idiocy can be understood with reference to at least one of these roughly drawn ‘types’. Although, of course, many who are susceptible to one category are often also drawn to another.

I suspect many readers will wonder whether any of this matters – isn’t it obvious that such people are foolish and irresponsible? Does it really need pointing out?

The only persuasive answer to this objection is to say that it isn’t as obvious as it ought to be. There are still those left-wing politicians and activists who, to paraphrase Orwell, will flock to anything emitting a whiff of revolution “like bluebottles to a dead cat”.

The Labour leadership will faithfully turn up at a Cuba Solidarity meeting (solidarity with the dictatorship rather than the people of Cuba), while these [‘solidarity’ campaigns](#) are propped up by some of Britain’s largest trade unions. Meanwhile, on the right of politics you are rarely far from someone who will rightly condemn any number of anti-western regimes before suddenly transforming into a cool rationalist when informed about the crimes of Saudi Arabia or the Israeli occupation.

We are probably all guilty of similar double standards from time to time. But only an incorrigible ideologue – or perhaps a congenital fool – would be entirely unconcerned by the tendency on the part of those living in liberal democracies to slip into the malignant state of *useful idiocy*.